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CYCLE PLANS SCRUTINISED

Hannah Somerville
hsomerville@nqo.com

TRANSPORT plans set out by Oxfordshire County Council have been criticised as unworkable by Banbury Town Council and Banbury Civic Society.

The groups claimed investment to improve cycle lanes and get more people travelling by bus could be a "waste" because the sustainable initiatives were not right for the town.

The Local Transport Plan sets out "local transport solutions" up to 2031 to work alongside 100,000 new homes and 85,000 new jobs across the county.

In Banbury, it notes that according to the Cherwell Local Plan an additional 7,000 houses and 7,000 jobs should be created over the next 15 years, increasing the population by around a third.

A key aim of the plan is to promote sustainable travel in and around Banbury including increased use of buses, cycling and walking.

But Banbury town councillor Kieron Mallon questioned this logic and pointed to the lack of interest in cycling initiatives over the years.

He said: "The emphasis and funding should be put towards the walking strategy, and paths around Banbury.

"Paying for thousands of miles of tarmac for cycle paths nobody uses is a waste."

He also said an improved bus system should be integrated with other counties and offer subsidies throughout, or else thousands of people commuting for work would continue to drive.

The plan suggests bus service improvements, so that "the bus becomes a genuinely viable alternative to the car" and also identifies the George Street car park as a potential site for a new bus station.

But Mr Mallon said: "We have and probably will rely on private motorcars to get people to and from work and shops.

"The document implies everyone will give up the use of motorcars and cycle, or use the bus, [which] is laudable but impractical in



Civic Society chairman Rob Kinchin-Smith outside the old Cherwell Iron Works

Banbury. I applaud the revamping of bus services in and around Banbury.

"But those routes and times will have to coincide with when people actually want to work, not when transport planners think they want to go to work."

He added that some people had asked whether Banbury needed a bus station at all, because a station would be required for city links, but probably not regular services around the town.

The Banbury Civic Society also submitted a lengthy response to a consultation into the plan that closed last week.

Chairman Rob Kinchin-Smith said: "It would be difficult to naysay the importance of sustainable transport. But for the buses to work they have to sort out the roads. If we are going to have more buses, where are they going to fit?"

Examples of existing traffic issues pointed out by the society, were Middleton Road – where traffic congestion on the railway

bridge holds people up. As well as the inner relief road from Oxford Road into Windsor Street, Cherwell Street and Concorde Avenue, and the "nightmare" of the Bridge Street crossroads.

Mr Kinchin-Smith added: "If traffic could be calmed on those roads we would see benefits.

"You can't just tell people in Banbury, 'It's your fault, don't use your cars'.

"Banbury desperately needs new road infrastructure. Maybe then we could get the buses moving."



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Hustings event

NORTH OXON: Prospective Parliamentary candidates will meet residents at a hustings. A group of ten Bicester churches has organised the event to hear what positives each candidate will bring in the role.

Attending will be Tory Victoria Prentis, the Green Party's Ian Middleton, UKIP's Dickie Bird, Lib Dem's John Howson, National Health Action Party's Roseanne Edwards and Labour's Sean Woodcock.

The hustings start at 7pm on Sunday, at Emmanuel Church, Barberry Place, Bicester.

GBH pair jailed

BANBURY: Two men who attacked a 19-year-old and left him needing metal plates fitted to his jaw have been sentenced for grievous bodily harm.

Thames Valley Police said Tomas McLaughlin, 23, from Bretch Hill, and Daniel Lewis, 18, from Millers Way, Middleton Cheney, punched the young man in the face in Market Place, Banbury, at about 2am on May 5 last year.

The victim suffered fractures and needed surgery.

Both men pleaded guilty at Oxford Crown Court on March 19.

McLaughlin was sentenced to two years in prison and Lewis was handed a deferred sentence for six months, with 180 hours of community service, curfew and electronic tag.

Thieves sought

BANBURY: Police are hunting a man and a woman after a couple went into Maplins in Lockheed Close shopping centre at about 1.30pm on Tuesday, February 3, put a pair of headphones in the woman's handbag and then left without paying.

Ukip hopeful faces flak over 'homophobic posts'

Matt Oliver
moliver@nqo.com

Anti-hate group claims Ukip candidate posted offensive messages via social media

A SECOND Ukip election hopeful has become embroiled in claims over homophobic comments made online.

Hope Not Hate alleged the party's prospective parliamentary candidate for Banbury, Dickie Bird, made the offensive remarks on Facebook.

The pressure group released pictures appearing to show a post on Mr Bird's account on January 25, 2013, that said: "bus done now on the train sat opposite some gay p***".

And in another explicit post he supposedly called former Liverpool and Chelsea footballer Fernando Torres "a gay boy like the rest".

Ukip headquarters were asked to comment but had not replied by the time the *Banbury Cake* went to press.

The claims came less than 24 hours after Mr Bird's party colleague Alan Harris faced similar accusations.

The parliamentary candidate for Oxford West and Abingdon was alleged by Hope Not Hate to have also posted homophobic remarks, as well as a racist message to Mr Bird.

A spokesman for Ukip said last week that it was investigating the claims against Mr Harris and had concerns that the pictures "may not stand up to scrutiny".

Mr Harris' wife took to Facebook to insist her husband's account had been "hacked". She wrote: "You all jump on the bandwagon, just like a flock of sheep. Remember there is [sic] always two sides to a story."



Controversy hits a Ukip candidate in the run-up to the General Election

Last night Mr Bird could not be reached for comment, but on Wednesday he said: "As far as I am aware I have never received a message like that from Alan. I do not know where they [Hope Not Hate] are getting this from. It's really depressing."

Hope Not Hate researcher Simon Cressy said: "Despite their protestations, this clearly demonstrates that Ukip in Oxfordshire as well as around the UK have a problem when it comes to the selection of their candidates."

Mr Cressy said he obtained the pictures of the alleged Facebook posts after befriending Mr Bird and Mr Harris on the social network under a false name.

He claimed to have been monitoring their accounts for offensive slurs for more than a year.

Commenting on claims against candidates elsewhere, during a Radio 4 interview, Mr Farage admitted his party was "far from perfect", but said it took swift action against those "who do say or do inappropriate things".



Dickie Bird, of Ukip

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Father, 27, dodges jail term

A LANDSCAPE gardener has avoided prison after attempting to break into an outhouse.

Kenny Martin, 27, had denied attempting burglary and going equipped but was found guilty by a jury in December.

A judge heard how the father-of-two had tried to turn his life around since the offences in February 2014 and had started up his own gardening business.

Oxford Crown Court heard last Thursday how Martin had been convicted after a three-day trial in December last year.

He was cleared of allowing himself

to be carried in a van that was taken without consent.

The jury had been told how Martin and an accomplice had been seen behaving suspiciously outside a large property in Oxford Road, Adderbury, on February 19, 2014.

A neighbour called police who responded and stopped the vehicle, which was carrying Martin.

They searched the van and found items inside that could be used for burglary. The owners of the property discovered evidence that somebody had attempted to force open the door of an outhouse.

Martin's companion admitted attempted burglary, going equipped and stealing the van they were travelling in and had previously been sentenced to eight months, four months, and 20 weeks in prison respectively, to run concurrently.

Recorder Paul Cook sentenced Martin, of Bourlsey Close, Rubery, Birmingham, to a 15-month prison sentence suspended for two years and a requirement to complete 200 hours of unpaid work for both offences, to run concurrently.

He was also ordered to pay £1,000 court costs.

Wine Vaults to uncork new look

OWNERS of The Wine Vaults in Parson's Street, Banbury, are giving their building a makeover this month.

The pub will be closing its doors on Sunday for just over a fortnight for renovations.

A contemporary and fully refurbished bar is just one of the changes.

Improvements include new toilets, a redeveloped garden area, "just in time for the summer", new and exciting

entertainment and a new food menu.

Work is expected to be completed by Monday, April 27, ahead of a formal launch of the new-look premises on Saturday, May 2. Co-owner Jem Morey said: "We can't tell you everything that is going to be happening. Let's just say we have some secrets to keep and some tricks up our sleeves for the grand reopening."

Watch the video at facebook.com/thewinevaultsbanbury

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Workers enjoy a Frozen cake-tastic celebration



Celebrating the creation of the Banbury-based firm's millionth Frozen-themed cupcake kit

Factory easy bake kits are worth a million thanks to a smash hit children's movie

Hannah Somerville
hsomerville@nqo.com

STAFF at the Fiddes Payne factory dressed up to celebrate their millionth Frozen-themed cupcake kit rolling off the production line.

The home baking provider has long been in the business of producing easy bake cupcake kits for children, featuring their favourite cartoon characters' faces.

Some past favourites have been from Toy Story, Winnie the Pooh and Spiderman.

But since Princess Elsa and her wintery companions became a hit children across the globe in the film *Frozen*, Fiddes Payne's orders have gone into overdrive.

Commercial controller Alex Balzaretti said: "The project only launched in November 2014. We have had a real growth - we've taken a 28 per cent market share in the last four months.

"We've only just been able to keep on top of production. It's taken over our business and I think a lot of businesses would say the same. This *Frozen* thing does not seem to be stopping."

The Banbury factory, established for about 25 years,



Some staff don Frozen-themed masks



Lining up outside the Fiddes Payne factory

Voters to get election poll cards

ELIGIBLE voters in the Cherwell area should have received poll cards informing them of how to vote in the upcoming General Election.

Anyone registered to vote should have had their poll card by

the deadline, which was on Tuesday, advising them of their designated poll station.

Acting returning officer Sue Smith said: "Although people do not take these cards with them on polling day, we would advise

that they are kept safe."

Those who registered to vote after March 9 will receive theirs during the week starting April 20.

If you live in Cherwell and wish to check if you are registered to vote call 01295 227005.

Residents asked for views on buildings

A CIVIC Society is asking Banbury residents to air their views on a historic set of buildings in Canal Street, which may be demolished.

The buildings, formerly part of the Cherwell Iron Works, were once a Victorian factory owned by Barrows & Co and finally ceased trading in 1919.

Steam engines, ploughing machinery and mortar mills were produced at the site, in its day one of Banbury's largest

employers. Current owners Swan Directors SIPP applied for permission to demolish the buildings last year.

A decision was meant to be made on March 23 but it is now likely to be determined on April 16.

Banbury Civic Society is urging people to email Cherwell District Council at planning@cherwelldc.gov.uk to voice their dissent with the plans and petition the council to halt

them. Online it cites as an argument: "This building is a reminder of Banbury's tradition of engineering excellence. If Banbury and Cherwell are to market the area's high-end engineering expertise, buildings like this deserve to be celebrated, not thrown away."

The buildings are also on the Local List for their historic interest.

Visit banburycivicsociety.org.

Hopefuls to talk NHS

BANBURY: All five parliamentary candidates for Banbury will attend a hustings event next week organised by Keep the Horton General.

Labour's Sean Woodcock, Conservative's Victoria Prentis, Green's Ian Middleton, National Health Action Party's Roseanne Edwards, and Ukip's Dickie Bird will be at St Mary's Church, Banbury, from 6pm to 9.30pm.

Each candidate will receive questions from the public on their party's plans for the NHS and how they would affect the Horton hospital.

For more details contact Keith Strangwood on 07740 599736.

Teenager assaulted

BANBURY: A teenager was sexually assaulted on Easter Sunday morning.

Thames Valley Police said the girl was approached at 1am by a man in South Street, who touched her inappropriately.

The girl is being offered support by police officers.

Sentenced for theft

BANBURY: Two men have been sentenced for stealing bikes in Banbury last August, police said.

Joseph Santos, 27, from Moorfield Court in West Street, and Barry Williams, 33, from Sandy Lane, Yarnton, admitted stealing two bikes from High Street on August 17 last year.

Santos also pleaded guilty to a further count of theft of a pedal cycle from Lockheed Close, Banbury, on August 13. He asked for 15 other offences to be taken into consideration and was handed a 12-week prison sentence at Banbury Magistrates' Court on March 16. Williams was given a two-year conditional discharge.

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It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

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that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service the Oxford, Banbury & Abingdon areas and James is finding that his approach is a major factor

in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

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Pupils take on creative Easter challenge with hard headgear



The Easter extravaganza in full swing
Builders inspire youngsters to create something different – in the form of hard hats

Hannah Somerville
hsomerville@nqo.com

TRADITIONAL Easter bonnets were cast aside by creative William Morris School pupils.

Instead, they showed off designs based on hard hats at the school's end-of-term 'Easter Eggstravaganza', as work had recently been going on to fix the school's leaky roof. Builders had given them a presentation about site safety. Last week, their headgear complemented other Easter activities including a tombola, cake sale, refreshments and egg hunt.



Pupils model Easter 'safety' bonnets as the builders move in



Anna Majcherczyk, and her daughter, Gabriela, decide which cakes to buy



Six-year-old Alfie Wood's creation



Harry Avery, with his design

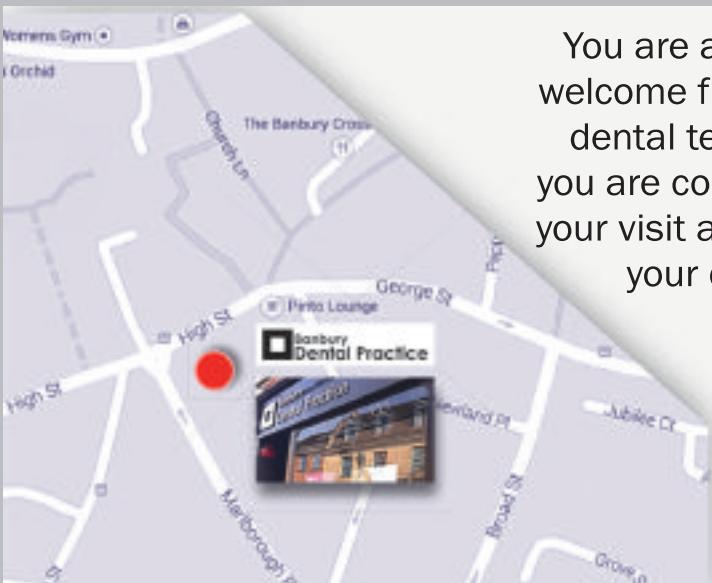
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Delivery kicks off election



Sue Smith and Royal Mail's Vic Amor with the proclamation

The Queen's traditional Proclamation instructs the returning officer

Hannah Somerville
hsomerville@nqo.com

A WRITTEN proclamation from the Queen was delivered to Bodicote House as part of an ancient political process.

Two blue envelopes were handed to Cherwell and South Northamptonshire's acting returning officer Sue Smith on Monday.

Inside each was a proclamation issued on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen as sent to other returning officers around the country, instructing the recipient to hold an Parliamentary election in their constituency.

Documents had been sent from Committee Room 3 in the House of Lords to Mount Pleasant, Royal Mail's central London office.

From there, Vic Amor from the Royal Mail Special Events team checked and collected them, and hand-delivered them to Bodicote House, Banbury, the next day. He said: "I actually took them up to bed and slept with them by the side of my bed to make sure.

"This is the third Parliamentary election I have delivered writs for. It's an honour."

SINGAROUND WEEKEND TO SUPPORT FOLK FESTIVAL

THE eighth Song and Ale Weekend will be held at Banbury Cricket Club, The Pavilion, this weekend. The event, a fundraiser for Banbury Folk Festival in October, will be in 'singaround' format, where groups take it in turns. The

of Parliament for the two constituencies. Mrs Smith said: "The receipt of a proclamation from Her Majesty and the Parliamentary writ is an ancient but still important tradition spanning hundreds of years."

She explained that on receiving the envelopes and signing the forms, she had formally agreed to take charge of the General Election in Cherwell and South Northamptonshire.

She added: "It is a great honour to be part of such an historic process and I will now keep all the relevant documents safe ahead of holding both elections."

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Three charged over home burglary

TWO men and a boy have been charged in connection with a burglary in Banbury.

Matthew Reid, 18, from Mawle Court in George Street, Banbury, has been charged with one count of burglary, as has a 17-year-old from Banbury.

Connor Farley, 18, from George Street, has been charged with one count of handling stolen goods and possession of the Class-B

drug cannabis. They were charged following an investigation by Thames Valley Police into an incident on January 12, when an iPad, iPhone and cash were stolen from a home in Dorchester Grove.

Read will appear at Oxford Crown Court on April 10, and Farley and the unnamed boy will appear at Banbury Magistrates' Court on April 9. All three are on

bail. Thames Valley Police are appealing for witnesses after another burglary in the town in which an engagement ring was taken.

The incident took place between 12.30pm and 2.30pm on Saturday, March 21, in Causeway. Thieves forced entry through a rear door and stole jewellery, including a diamond engagement ring, a white iPhone 4 and cash.

ELECTION VOTING HELP

TWO events organised by Banbury Citizens Advice Bureau will dispense last-minute help and advice to people not yet registered to vote. The sessions, at the CAB's Cornhill offices, will run from 10am to 3pm on Wednesday, April 15, and Thursday, April 16. Volunteers will give practical help with registration. For those interested in voting in the May 7 General Election but who are not yet registered, the deadline is Monday, April 20.

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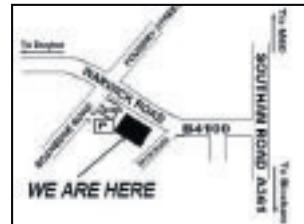


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Conman will be sentenced when he leaves hospital

A FRAUDSTER, who told his victims he would pass on their donations to the family of a pilot injured in an accident, had his sentencing adjourned.

Kevin Crellin, of Sibford Gower, was convicted after a trial of three counts of fraud on February 24 this year.

The 52-year-old is accused of committing the offences between February 2012 and July 2012 against Peter Morris and John Zarno by not passing on their charity donations.

He also conned Susan Waring-Smith out of money by saying he would provide or arrange flying training.

The hearing was adjourned because Crellin was in hospital. He will now be sentenced after he is discharged.

'Satisfaction very high'

Chief Constable insists public are 'happy'

Alex Wynick
awynick@nqo.com

PEOPLE in Oxfordshire should judge the police on their day-to-day activities, rather than their failings during the Operation Bullfinch scandal, the new police chief said.

Francis Habgood took over as chief constable last week. He said the public had confidence in Thames Valley Police, despite the fact the force was heavily criticised in the Serious Case Review published last month.

Girls were subjected to years of sexual abuse by a grooming gang and seven men were jailed in 2013, for a total of 95 years for raping, grooming and prostituting the girls between 2005-2011.

The review said there were 1,561 recorded police contacts with the girls, but just 26 offences recorded.

But Mr Habgood said that he was determined to put the Bullfinch Serious Case Review behind him in his role.

He said: "We have acknowledged there were mistakes and we are shamed by the service that was provided years ago.

"But the Serious Case Review acknowledges several improvements by the police since 2011.

"We are now considered to be a leader in children sexual exploitation services and we will continue to make that a priority."

Mr Habgood has worked for TVP for 11 years and has been a police officer for 28 years.

Ahead of the year's official crime statistics being released later this month, Mr Habgood said: "If you look at confidence and satisfaction levels they are all at high levels.

"When people call the police and interact with us and see us out and about on a day-to-day basis or other things, they are happy with that.

"There are lots of different ways of how confidence is measured and most people judge the police on those things."

The former deputy chief constable said that he wanted to "modernise" the force, including letting people contact the police online.

He said: "People are used to using their smartphones to do other things – banking, insurance, and so on – why not the police?

"We can't afford to stand still, we need to adapt to the changing demands on policing."

He said the public would start to see more online services in the next 18 months and that there would be more technology



New Chief Constable Francis Habgood chats to reporter Alex Wynick

projects for the force over the next three years.

As well as helping the public, using more technology will save the force money.

In the last four years TVP has had to cut more than £58m.

Mr Habgood said: "Until after the General Election we don't know what the threat will be, but there will be cuts.

"I can promise I will do everything I can to use the resources we are allocated for front-line services."

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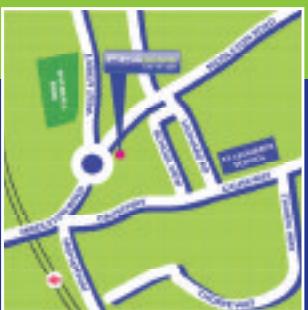
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Lucky for some as all 13 students get black belts

Huge group of fighters all passed their grading on the same day

By Hannah Somerville
hsomerville@nqo.com

THIRTEEN young fighters from Banbury Shukokai Karate Centres have passed their black belt gradings on the same day. The students included Stuart Boyland, Toby White, Anzonie Carpenter, Alex Graham, Cheryl Goode, Jon Carlo Dimaculangan, Jeremy Penrice, Lance Sunga, Jack Oakes, Conrad Wale, Tom Koster, Joe Del-Principe and Alex Del-Principe.

They fell into each others' arms at the end of the four-and-a-half hour ordeal, in which their physical and mental strength had been tested to the limit. Shukokai is a fast, powerful style of karate, which was developed in the late 1940s.

It takes an absolute minimum of five years' training to achieve the black belt standard.

On the day, at the Chasewell centre, Avocet Way, the students be-



Stuart Boyland, Toby White, Anzonie Carpenter, Alex Graham, Cheryl Goode, Jon Carlo Dimaculangan, Jeremy Penrice, Lance Sunga, Jack Oakes, Conrad Wale, Tom Koster, Joe Del-Principe and Alex Del-Principe

gan with basic moves. They then continued with kata, or pre-set forms, before moving onto an hour of full-contact padwork. Finally, they went through an hour-and-a-half of free fighting.

Club secretary Sandra Rees said: "It is no exaggeration when I say that students who attempt black belt within the Shukokai Karate Association

are at breaking point and near to total exhaustion by the end of the day.

"We were very honoured to have Sensei Mal Hudson on the grading panel, who is a former world shukokai champion."

The clubs are run from Monday to Friday at a variety of locations in the town. For information call 01295 272436 or visit banburykarate.co.uk.



Gareth Rees, twins Alex and Joe Del-Principe and champion Mal Hudson

Faster broadband for the county

MORE than 40,000 homes and businesses across the county are now able to access superfast broadband as part of the multi-million pound Better Broadband for Oxfordshire programme.

Oxfordshire County Council and

BT have announced Adderbury is the latest site to benefit.

Businesses and families gathered in Oxford Road to switch on the cabinet that will enable about 200 premises to access the new fibre network.

The scheme is part of the government's Broadband Delivery UK programme and last month the partnership announced £5.1million would help roll out an additional 6,500 public buildings.

Have fun and get active with netball

NETBALL classes are being launched in Bloxham to invite women to rediscover the classic school sport.

The 'Back to Netball' sessions have already been introduced by Cherwell District Council in Chesterton, teaching women the rules of the game and training techniques that can be put into practice at an end-of-session match.

The weekly classes will be held at the Warriner School,

Bloxham, beginning on Thursday, April 16.

Ian Davies, Cherwell's director of community and environment, said: "Lots of women will remember playing netball at school and enjoying it. "We have found there was a huge interest, and so we are now rolling out sessions in Bloxham to encourage more women to take part."

Attendees must be female and aged at least 16.

Mr Davies added: "Regardless of whether it's been five, ten or 20 years since some ladies last picked up a ball, they are more than welcome."

Back to Netball is part of the council's work in support of the national This Girl Can campaign, which promotes sport among women.

Sessions run from 6.30pm to 7.30pm and cost £2 per person. For more information or to reserve a place call 01295 221806.

44% rise in under-13s that are arrested

THE number of arrests of children under the age of 13 in Oxfordshire went up 44 per cent in 2014.

Since May 2012, police have arrested 65 children aged between 10-13 a total of 84 times.

In 2013, there were 25 arrests, while in 2014, there were 36 arrests, up by more than two fifths.

The figures, released after a Freedom of Information request, include two alleged rapes by 12-year-olds and one count of a 13-year-old allegedly causing GBH with intent.

In total two 10-year-olds, two

11-year-olds, 12 12-year-olds and 49 13-year-olds were arrested.

The most common alleged crimes included assault, with 15 arrests, criminal damage, with 12 arrests, and theft, with six arrests.

Other suspected offences included burglary, possessing a blade in a public place, fraud by false representation and possessing an imitation firearm.

Head of criminal justice at TVP, Supt Rory Freeman, said the rise was a result of a several factors but said: "This may be as a result of increased targeted

patrols or the enforcement of priorities identified by members of the public."

Of the 84 incidents, 17 were charged, eight were cautioned, eight were made to apologise, one was reprimanded and 47 cases with no further action.

Mr Freeman said that the percentage of cases where further action was taken against children was "significantly lower" than that for adults.

Oxford East prospective parliamentary candidate Andrew Smith said: "I don't think these numbers should trigger panic."

Recycling roadshow

CHERWELL: Recycling roadshows will be staged across the district in a bid to encourage residents to adopt a greener lifestyle.

Cherwell District Council's recycling team will go on tour later this month to host shows in Banbury, as well as Bicester and Kidlington.

Residents will be able to ask questions, get advice as well as freebies such as food caddies and bags for recycling small electricals.

It will be at Banbury Marketplace on Thursday, April 16, from 10am to 1pm.

Health drive online

OXON: Ambulance services in Oxfordshire will be encouraging people to get healthy with a new campaign.

South Central Ambulance Service, which runs ambulance services in the county, launched the Spring Ready campaign at the end of March.

In its campaign, the ambulance service will be using its Twitter account to give people healthy lifestyle tips such as eating more fish, or road safety tips to prevent accidents.

To find out some tips for reducing your chances of requiring an ambulance, follow @SCAS999 on Twitter.

Dentists taken over

OXON: Specialist dental services and oral health in the county will now be provided by a private company.

Community Dental Services became the new provider for Oxfordshire County Council on April 1.

As part of the Oxfordshire Oral Health Promotion team, the company plans to create healthier environments for children with programmes at children's centres and primary schools.

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Ugly ducklings take centre stage in school chick flick

THE DUFF
(12A, 101 mins)

COMEDY/Romance. Starring Mae Whitman, Robbie Amell, Bella Thorne, Skyler Samuels, Bianca A Santos, Nick Eversman, Allison Janney, Ken Jeong, Rebecca Weil, Romany Malco. Director: Ari Sandel.

IT seems rather disingenuous for Hollywood – an industry that reveres glamour, designer couture and age-defying beauty – to peddle wish fulfilment fantasies to female audiences that extol beauty as a quality that radiates purely from within.

Cinema's so-called ugly ducklings are invariably gorgeous actresses, who have neglected to wash their hair and put on make-up for a few scenes, dressed in over-sized high-street fashions.

Their transformation into glittering swans is just a couple of hours away, courtesy of a top stylist.

Ultimately, we're suckers for these widescreen fairy tales and *The Duff* continues the trend with sassiness and style.

Ari Sandel's film is an unabashedly feel-good comedy about one young woman's journey from insecurity to self-acceptance that patrols the same high school corridors as *She's All That*, *Clueless*, *Mean Girls* and *10 Things I Hate About You*.

Josh A Cagan's script, adapted from the novel by Kody Keplinger, embraces every well-worn cliché and convention, empowering its heroines to take control of their lives and defy magazine articles, which dictate how they should behave or dress.

Thus one tomboy isn't fussed about attending her school's rites-of-passage prom because she already has a date in front of the TV.

"There's a Vincent Price marathon on so I gotta' watch that," she deadpans.

The devoted horror fan is Bianca (Mae Whitman), who attends parties with her best friends Jess (Skyler Samuels) and Casey (Bianca A San-



A scene from *The Duff*

Picture: PA Photo/Guy D Alema/Entertainment One

CakeWhat's on

THEATRE:

FRIDAY
New Theatre Oxford, George Street, Oxford: *The Dreamboys*.

7.30pm. The UK's top male glamour show, which has appeared on some of the UK's biggest TV shows such as *The X Factor*, *Britain's Got Talent*, *Celebrity Big Brother*, *Pineapple Dance Studios*, *Loose Women*, *This Morning* and *The Only Way Is Essex*. An action packed two-hour show £26.40 (plus £2.85 transaction fee). 0844 871 3020.

The Old Fire Station, 40 George Street, Oxford: *STAND*. Runs until Saturday, 7.30pm. Chris Goode and Company and Oxford Playhouse present *STAND*, real life stories of courage and conscience from local people who stood up for something, or someone, they believed in. Six Oxford activists – or at least, six people who have chosen to act – take the stage and step in to the spotlight, portrayed by six actors.

£13, £11. 01865 305305.

MONDAY

Amey Theatre, Abingdon School, Bath Street, Abingdon: *The Sound of Music*. Runs until April 18.

7.30pm. The classic musical jugernaut. AOS promises a fantastic evening's entertainment for the whole family. £10.

TUESDAY

The North Wall Arts Centre, South Parade, Summertown: *Awake* Projects & The North Wall present *Song of Riots*. Runs until April 18.

8pm. With woods, wildmen, the fairytale Iron Hans and the words of William Blake, *Song of Riots* explores how boys cross the bridge from childhood to maturity and what happens if they fail to make that journey. £13 (concessions £11/£5). 01865 319450.

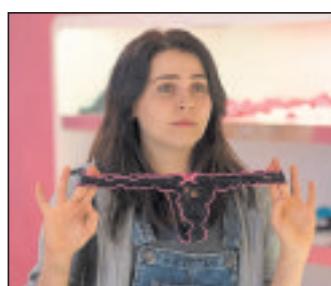
The Old Fire Station, 40 George Street, Oxford: *Hammer and Tongue*. 8pm. The heart of Oxford's live spoken word scene for over a decade, delivering glittering

performances sandwiched by acclaimed feature artists. Each month also features the Open Poetry Slam where eight up and coming poets have three minutes to dazzle the audience with their performance skills. Judges chosen from the audience score them and the winner goes through to the grand final.

Sign up for the slam on the door (free entry for slammers). £7, £5. 01865 305305.

WEDNESDAY

Corn Exchange, Market Place, Wallingford: *Life of Riley* by Alan Ayckbourn. Runs until April 18, 7.45pm. Sinodun Players' spring production is *Life of Riley*, a dark comedy. When he completed the play in 2010, Ayckbourn said he had always wanted to write a comedy that finished with a funeral but got laughs along the way. There's plenty to laugh about here. And, typical Ayckbourn, there is a final twist in the tale. See: cornexchange.org.uk £10. 01491 825000.



Mae Whitman, who plays Bianca Piper, in *The Duff*

CakeSport

banburycake.co.uk/sport



ON TARGET: Jack Westbrook equalised for Banbury at Redditch

Westbrook goal boosts Banbury

Puritans keep up fight to avoid the drop

BANBURY United fought back from 1-0 down to lift their slim hopes of avoiding relegation with a draw at the Evo-Stik Southern League Premier Division play-off chasers on Monday.

It saw Banbury move 11 points closer to safety.

Redditch took a 39th-minute lead through Ashley Sammons.

Banbury almost equalised on 64 minutes, only for Leam Howards to be denied by Sam Hornby in the Redditch goal.

On 82 minutes, Banbury

levelled when Redditch failed to clear a free-kick and Jack Westbrook fired in.

Redditch Utd: Bedwell, Daffern, Martin, Fishwick (Walcott 46), Westbrook, Ryan, Green (Murombedzi 53), Cray (Browne 39), Howards, Isaac, Tappin. Subs not used: Lewars, Baigent. Attendance: 285.

On Saturday, Banbury won 3-0 at basement club Burnham.

Although dominating proceedings, Banbury had to wait until the 56th minute before taking the lead.

A cross from Jacob

Daffern was slotted home by Leam Howards after Burnham keeper Brendan Haslett parried his initial shot.

On 62 minutes it was 2-0 when Jordan Green fired a free-kick low into the corner.

Banbury scored their third goal on 70 minutes. A high cross by Daffern went through Haslett's hands and Luke Cray smashed in from close range.

Banbury Utd: Bedwell, Daffern, Martin, Fishwick, Westbrook, Ryan, Green (Murombedzi 67), L Cray, L Howards (Walcott 76), Isaac (Lewars 78), Tappin. Sub not used: Browne.

Attendance: 124.

LATEST TABLE

SOUTHERN LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION									
Corby Tn	41	27	7	7	81	43	88		
Poole Tn	38	26	5	7	73	26	83		
Truro City	41	25	5	11	77	53	80		
Hungerford	41	20	12	9	59	34	72		
Weymouth	40	22	6	12	69	63	59		
St Neots Tn	41	19	14	8	77	56	71		
Redditch Utd	41	18	12	11	67	43	66		
Hitchin Tn	42	19	9	14	72	61	66		
Cirencester	40	18	10	12	71	58	64		
Paulton Rov	40	17	9	14	62	58	60		
Chippingham	41	16	11	14	52	49	59		
Chesham Utd	41	15	12	14	77	67	57		
Dunstable	42	16	8	18	68	73	56		
Bideford	41	16	6	19	65	82	54		
Cambridge C	41	13	13	15	68	62	52		
Slough Tn	40	12	11	17	60	79	47		
Histon	41	12	9	20	49	68	45		
Dorchester	41	12	7	22	57	71	43		
Biggleswade	41	9	12	20	52	72	39		
Frome Tn	41	10	9	22	47	77	39		
Arlesey Tn	41	10	5	26	41	78	35		
Banbury Utd	39	6	10	23	43	83	28		
*Burham									
Attendance: 285									

*Pts deducted. Hereford record expunged

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ARIES

Mar 21-Apr 19

You're in for a really productive week Aries, unless of course you allow certain so-called friends to lead you astray. Real friends won't be enablers to events and behaviour which lead you to regrets. Remember this and use it when the time comes for you to make decisions. A good week for interviews and tests. Ring now to hear why family should be made a priority on Sunday.

0906 585 4360

TAURUS

Apr 20-May 20

There is the need in you to create more of a base for yourself and to spend time with those who mean the most to you. Try not to spread gossip as you would be far better to put your time and energy into your own life rather than the dramas of others. Persistence in a home matter is the key to you solving what's becoming an annoying problem. Ring me, we need to talk relationships.

0906 585 4361

GEMINI

May 21-Jun 20

The desire to win could see you cutting corners. Make sure you are living your life the way you standards prefer, or you could end up attracting fate into your life when treat you with half the energy and commitment you deserve. Someone from the past links to a career opportunity which is tailor made for you. Give me a ring to hear how Venus brings honest talking in love.

0906 585 4362

CANCER

Jun 21-Jul 22

If better is possible then good is not enough. You need to think about upping the ante while others are still willing to give you a platform. Someone you didn't expect to see again is back in your circle but their intentions are likely to surprise you. Wear green for luck in business and monetary dealings. It's sure to give you the edge in fortune. Ring now to hear whose friendship is questionable.

0906 585 4363

LEO

Jul 23-Aug 22

If better is possible then good is not enough. You need to think about upping the ante while others are still willing to give you a platform. Someone you didn't expect to see again is back in your circle but their intentions are likely to surprise you. Wear green for luck in business and monetary dealings. It's sure to give you the edge in fortune. Ring now to hear whose friendship is questionable.

0906 585 4364

VIRGO

Aug 23-Sep 22

Are you doing what you want to, or just what looks right to others? I'm not entirely sure and I don't think you are either. Virgo. Stop asking others advice and write down what is important to you. May I suggest you do this and then don't lend money you know you won't get back and don't borrow if you can't pay back. An important friendship dictates this. Ring now for a full update.

0906 585 4365

LIBRA

Sep 23-Oct 22

There is the need in your chart for you to be selfish rather than listening to what others want or tell you to do. This has a lot to do with the fact that you have been pushed to your limits recently and you've recognised that you need to claim time and space for yourself. A new face in your career appears to be a threat but is actually an asset. Ring now to hear why they're worth giving a chance to.

0906 585 4366

SCORPIO

Oct 23-Nov 21

You're taking a deeper look at relationships and what you want from a partnership. Just make sure you are keeping the bar high and that you don't accept second best. Your ruling planet Mars makes it hard for you to get into heated debates with familiar faces, but try to keep your cool or else could end up saying things you will regret. Ring now to hear how April brings new career paths.

0906 585 4367

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 22-Dec 21

There are two mistakes you can make this week along the road to the truth and fortune. Not going all the way and not starting at all. The fear and do it anyway, you've got the backing of the stars to give you strength just as you think you're running out. New friends you will make turn out to be the lasting kind. Ring now so I can help you make the most of this unforgettable week.

0906 585 4368

CAPRICORN

Dec 22-Jan 19

Perseverance and confidence are the things you need to make a success of this week. But if you don't feel confident to take the lead, then you will if you put your best foot forward. Start as you mean to go on and make your life a better place to be. Leos link to a career project which can help you things up a notch. Ring me to find out more about your week and month.

0906 585 4369

AQUARIUS

Jan 20-Feb 18

To quote a saying, consider a postage stamp. Its usefulness consists in its ability to stick to one thing until it gets there. You may feel like giving up on current projects but by sticking to them you will show others and yourself that you have what it takes to play the professional and to gain new opportunities. Ring now to hear why you should check for your passport.

0906 585 4370

PISCES

Feb 19-Mar 20

If you believe even half of what you hear this week then you'll be leading down a very dramatic and futile path indeed. It's really important that you complete all that you'd planned for this week or you're going to feel disappointed by the time that Friday comes around. News of money coming in brings relief.

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9 RECRUITMENT



Electrical/Electronic Maintenance Engineer Required (Night Shift)

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Ideally you will be:

A competent Electrician with a formal qualification and experience.

Experienced in working with ac/dc control systems & panels with the skill of fault finding on drive systems. Having a basic know-how in Ethernet-Communication with process-controllers, field-bus-systems (e.g. Interbus), modern instruments and control systems.

Experienced working in an industrial environment as an Electrical/ Electronic/Mechanical maintenance engineer on industrial machinery and troubleshooting.

Additional desirable attributes would be:

IT literate including hardware, software and troubleshooting.

Having at least 2 years practical experience including: fault finding, knowledge of DC/AC motors, converters, encoders, panel and motor wiring.

Able to demonstrate an excellent electrical knowledge with a basic knowledge in lighting systems plus mechanical knowledge and experience and able to carry out preventive maintenance

There will be occasions where some mechanical engineering and the need to 'get your hands dirty' will be required. A reasonable level of fitness is required to fulfil the duties of this position.

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If you are interested in becoming a key player in this facility please send your CV and a covering letter to: Duncan Ellam, Printing Services Manager, Newsquest Oxford & Wilts, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0EJ

Or email duncan.ellam@newsquest.co.uk

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In brief

RESIDUAL values for electric cars are rising to levels similar to those of diesels, says a trade price guide publisher. Glass's says that residual value forecasts are "already broadly similar" to those of diesels, citing the Tesla Model S's predicted 43% RV after three years and 60,000 miles versus the almost identical value attached to the BMW 535d M Sport. RVs have been low for electric cars because of uncertainty surrounding expensive battery replacements, but as technology improves and public perception of it eases away from scepticism and towards curiosity."

BMW has joined the plug-in hybrid rush with its first 'mainstream' effort following the amazing hype surrounding the i8 sports car. The petrol-electric drivetrain has been put into the X5 xDrive40e, where its efficiency benefits can have the biggest impact. Tests have recorded average fuel consumption of 85.6mpg, but the EU's current tests fail to take into account the electricity used by the plug-in hybrid system. Consumption measures 15.3kWh, but meaningful comparisons with miles per gallon have yet to standardise in any market.

Turbo delivers in a small package

Auto facts

Vauxhall Corsa SRi VX-Line 1.0T
Price: £14,460
Insurance group: 12E (1-50)
Fuel consumption (combined): 57.6mpg
Top speed: 121mph
Length: 402cm/158.2in
Width: 194.4cm/76.5in
Luggage capacity: 10cu ft
Fuel tank capacity: 9.9 gallons/45 litres
CO2 emissions: 115 g/km
Warranty: Three years/60,000 miles

By David Duffy

david.duffy@nqo.com

A GLANCE at the rear of this little car is enough to show that Vauxhall is clearly very proud indeed of the star engine that powers its new Corsa.

A large chrome Turbo badge on the little hatchback's tailgate tells the world that under the bonnet the latest addition to an already extensive engine range offers something a little special.

While it is only 1.0-litre in capacity, the lightweight, three-cylinder direct injection petrol engine, fitted with start/stop technology as standard, offers an outstanding mix of economy, power and low emissions.

I won't bore you with the technical whys and wherefores, but suffice to say that this is the smoothest, quietest three-cylinder engine I have yet encountered.

Despite its small size, mated to a slick six-speed manual gearbox, it delivers remarkable low-end torque, zippy acceleration and relaxed motorway cruising ability.

Priced from about £9,000, with nine trim levels, the new Corsa range continues to deliver a huge range of choice for both



The Vauxhall Corsa SRi VX-Line 1.0T, priced at £14,460

private and business buyers after 33 years in the market and more than 12 million sold.

Compact, good looking, with a surprisingly large and versatile interior, it is small wonder that the Corsa has been Vauxhall's best-selling car for years, vying with the Ford Fiesta for the UK's top sales spot.

No pressure then to design a fourth-generation car worthy of its best-selling predecessors. To do that Vauxhall has not only given the car sportier styling, and improved its driveability and efficiency, but upgraded both the interior, with a new instrument panel and the equipment.

The upmarket equipment package contained everything from cruise control and multi-function trip computer to a tyre pressure monitoring system.

If I had one disappointment it was not being able to get close to the 65.7mpg quoted on the government combined cycle. The best I could manage was about the 50mpg mark.

Meeting the latest Euro 6 emissions regulations, the car is free of vehicle excise duty in its first year and only liable for a £30 annual charge from then on.

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2007 07	RENAULT CLIO 1.2 EXTREME. 3 Doors. Dark blue..Local car. 2 Owners. Approximately ONLY 36000 recorded miles. Alloys. PAS. Electric windows. Central locking. Radio/CD. Sold with a full service a new MOT and a new cambelt. HPI Clear.....	£3,750
2007 07	FORD FIESTA 1.4 STYLE. 5 Door. Blue. 2 owners from new. Local car. PAS. Radio/CD. Alloys. Remote central locking. Electric windows. Etc. Nice condition throughout. Sold with a new MOT a full service and a new cambelt. HPI Clear.....	£2,995
2004 04	TOYOTA YARIS T-SPRiTZ AUTOMATIC. Metallic Dark Blue. 3 Door. Full service history, with approximately only 55000 miles. Local car. AUTOMATIC. Electric windows.PAS. Central locking. Radio/CD. Alloys. Aircon. Superb small hatchback. Sold with a new MOT, a full service and a new cambelt. HPI Clear.....	£2,695
2001 51	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 AUTOMATIC. 5 door. Silver. Local car. Central locking. Electric windows. PAS. Radio/CD. Very tidy for its year. Sold with a new MOT a full service and a new cambelt. HPI Clear.....	£1,550
2004 04	FIAT PANDA 1.2 ELEGANZA. 5 doors. Blue. Great little car. Central locking. Electric windows. Electric door mirrors. Radio/CD. Very roomy and economical small hatchback. Sold with a new MOT a full service and a new cambelt. HPI Clear.....	£1,450
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1997 P	TOYOTA CELICA 1.8 ST COUPE. Turquoise Blue. Exceptional Condition, PAS, Alloys, Central Locking, Electric Windows, Sun Roof, Local Car, HPI Clear.....	£995
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Festival attracts record 110 car clubs

MORE than 100 car clubs will add to the high-octane atmosphere at the Silverstone Classic (July 24-26) with huge displays creating an infield motor museum.

The world's biggest classic motor racing festival, this year's silver anniversary event is already breaking records.

Last year's three-day extravaganza attracted 93 clubs, displaying 10,000 classic cars. Those records have already been topped in 2015 with – to date – no fewer than 110 clubs signing up.

Event director Nick Wigley said: "These displays are an important part of our celebration of classic car culture and every year they

grow. The record number registered shows the clubs are coming out in force, once again providing a wonderful spectacle."

While the event will mark its 25th anniversary, many car clubs will pay homage to their own landmarks with track parades on Friday and Saturday.

Milestones being honoured on the full Silverstone Grand Prix Circuit this year include 60 years of both the TVR Car Club and Aston Martin DB6, 50 years of the Rolls-Royce Silver Shadow, 40 years of the Jaguar XJS and Triumph TR7, 30 years of the Sinclair C5 and Toyota MR2 as well as 25 years of two Japanese sports cars – the

Honda NSX mid-engined supercar and the Mazda MX-5, which reached the UK in 1990.

Although car club members have until the end of May to register, Early Bird tickets are on sale. Adult prices start at £34, giving admission to both National and Wing race paddocks, trackside grandstands and live music concerts which include chart-toppers Status Quo and Paul Young.

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*The MINI Countryman is available from £99 Advance Payment under the Motability Contract Hire Scheme. Model featured is the MINI Cooper Countryman. All prices are correct at time of going to print for orders placed and accepted between 1 January and 31 March 2015. The facilities offered are for the hire of a vehicle of goods. The Motability Contract Hire Scheme is administered by Motability Operations Limited (Registered Company No. 2373876) City Gate House, 22 Southgate Bridge Road, London SE1 9B8. To qualify you must be in receipt of the Higher Rate Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance, the Enhanced Rate of the Mobility Component of Personal Independence Payment (PIP), the War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement (WPMIS) or the Armed Forces Independence Payment (AFIP), which will be taken in lieu of the four weekly rental. Terms and conditions apply and are available on request.

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